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FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT

Annual
R E P O R T

on the
**Public Health and
Housing Conditions**

for the year

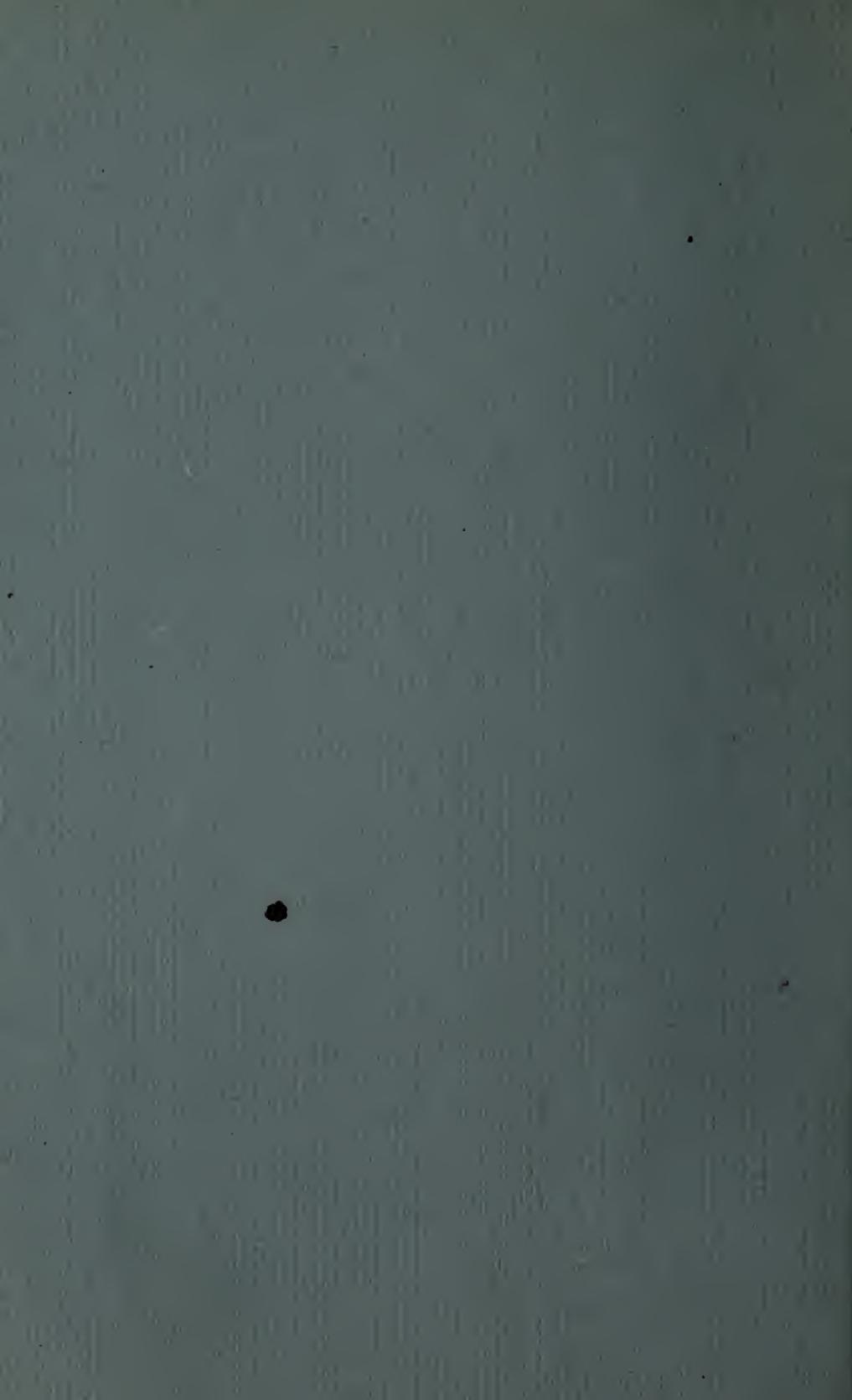
1958



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D.P.H.(Edin.),,
Medical Officer of Health

H. GRAHAM, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.R.S.I.,
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COUNCIL OFFICES,
WESHAM, KIRKHAM



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WESHAM, KIRKHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the year 1958



To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

The general health of the Rural District has been satisfactory, there has been nothing outstanding to report.

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases has again been low, indeed Measles and Sonne Dysentery are the only two such conditions which can be said to have occurred in anything approaching outbreak form. The Measles outbreak started about mid-autumn and was still with us at the close of the year. The Dysentery was almost entirely confined to Royal Air Force Personnel and their families at the south end of the District, and, that which was notified to the Rural District Council for statistical purposes, was dealt with by the R.A.F. medical staff and laboratory. We are grateful to them for this.

Some influenza occurred during the autumn, but, not being notifiable, no figures are available. There was nothing like the dislocation resulting from the outbreak during autumn, 1957.

A total of 34 cases of Food Poisoning was notified during the year. The majority of these were in one outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting in a residential school, the remainder, odd cases of suspected poisoning. In the school outbreak it was possible to fix the blame on one meal, but unfortunately by the time our attention was drawn to this we were only able to secure a piece of meat for examination, all else having been either finished or disposed of. Re-warmed gravy, we suspect, was probably the infective agent.

As regards Vital Statistics there is little change in the Birth Rate at 18.1 for 1,000 population ; the Death Rate is up a little, 15.5 per 1,000 population, as against 12.3 in 1957. Again there have been no deaths in child birth and the Infant Mortality Rate this year has fallen to 14.2 per thousand live births. The whole of these deaths fall within the neo-natal category—that is during the first month of life.

Representations of defective property for demolition or closing orders were made throughout the year as the various houses were visited and inspected.

To my two colleagues, the Public Health Inspectors, my sincere thanks are tendered for happy co-operation in the work of the Department ; and also to Mr. Webb and the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their interest.

GENERAL STATISTICS

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area (in acres) ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33,264 |
| Population ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17,670 |
| Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1958) ... | | | | | | 3,638 |
| Rateable value at 1.4.58 ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £148,081 |
| Amount produced by a penny rate ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £670 |

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.

Two hundred and eighty-one Births, 145 males and 136 females, were registered during the year. The birth rate of 18.1 compares with the rate of 19.0 per 1,000, in 1957. Seven of the births were illegitimate.

STILLBIRTHS.

There were 3 female and 5 male stillbirths during the year, making a stillbirth rate of 27.7 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths compared with a rate of 21 per 1,000 in 1957.

DEATHS.

Two hundred and seventy-six deaths, 123 males and 153 females, were registered during the year. The death rate at 15.5 per 1,000 compares with a rate of 12.3 per 1,000 in 1957.

Mortality Rates per 1,000 estimated population—

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Total (all forms) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Crude rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17.2 |
| Adjusted rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15.5 |
| Respiratory T.B. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Malignant neoplasms, etc. (Cols. 10—15 incl. of S.D. 30) | | | | ... | ... | 2.37 |
| Live birth rates per 1,000 estimated population— | | | | | | |
| Crude rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17.6 |
| Adjusted rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18.1 |
| Stillbirth rate per 1,000 <i>total</i> births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27.7 |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 <i>total</i> births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Infant mortality rate per 1,000 <i>live</i> births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14.2 |
| Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 <i>live</i> births | | | | ... | ... | 14.2 |

CAUSES OF DEATH

The table below shows the causes of death of Rural District residents in 1958 —

| <i>Cause of Death</i> | | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|----------------------------|-----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Tuberculosis (Respiratory) | ... | ... | — | — |
| Tuberculosis (Other) | ... | ... | — | I I |
| Cancer of stomach | ... | ... | 3 2 | 5 |
| „ respiratory tract | ... | ... | 7 I | 8 |
| „ breast | ... | ... | I 2 | 3 |
| „ all other sites | ... | ... | 7 13 | 20 |
| Vascular lesions | ... | ... | 16 20 | 36 |

| <i>Cause of Death</i> | | | | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Heart Disease (Angina) | ... | ... | ... | 15 | 14 | 29 |
| Other Heart Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 15 | 25 |
| Other circulatory diseases | | ... | ... | 8 | 33 | 41 |
| Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Leukaemia | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| Gastro-Enteritis | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Congenital malformations | | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | ... | ... | 30 | 39 | 69 | |
| Motor vehicle accidents | ... | ... | 3 | — | — | 3 |
| All other accidents | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 5 | |
| Suicide | ... | ... | ... | 4 | — | 4 |
| | | | | 123 | 153 | 276 |

The table below shows comparisons for the years 1954-58 between birth and death rates in England and Wales:—

| <i>Year</i> | <i>England and Wales</i> | | | <i>Fylde Rural District</i> | |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----|-----------------------------|---------------|
| | <i>Births</i> | <i>Deaths</i> | | <i>Births</i> | <i>Deaths</i> |
| 1954 | 15.2 | 11.3 | ... | 12.4 | 9.2 |
| 1955 | 15.0 | 11.7 | ... | 14.3 | 9.9 |
| 1956 | 15.7 | 11.7 | ... | 17.8 | 11.1 |
| 1957 | 16.1 | 11.5 | ... | 19.0 | 12.3 |
| 1958 | 16.4 | 11.7 | ... | 18.1 | 15.5 |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

PERSONNEL

Medical Officer of Health : C. Robertson Wilson, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (EDIN.).

Other Appointments held : Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Lytham St. Annes, and Urban Districts of Poulton - le - Fylde, Kirkham, Thornton Cleveleys and Preesall. Divisional Medical Officer of Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

H. Graham, M.A.P.H.I., CERT.R.S.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

T. B. Berry, M.A.P.H.I., CERT.R.S.I.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee, and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park, and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious diseases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool, excepting in the case of Tuberculosis which go to Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is administered by the Lancashire County Council. Ambulance Stations in No. 3 Health Division of the Lancashire County are located at Wesham, St. Annes, Thornton and Fleetwood. The service is now a part of Radio-control Area No. 3 of the County Ambulance Service and controlled from Broughton House, near Preston.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out at the laboratories of the Blackpool Victoria Hospital and the Preston Royal Infirmary. The latter laboratory is also used for the examination of water and milk samples.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

VENEREAL DISEASE SERVICE

Facilities for treatment of Venereal Disease are available at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AND OTHER CLINICS. FYLDE AREA OF LANCASHIRE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AND SCHOOL MEDICAL CLINIC

Clinics of the County Council, held in the Rural District, at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows :—

Freckleton—Methodist Sunday School

| | | | |
|--------|-----|------|---|
| Monday | ... | p.m. | C.W.C. |
| | | p.m. | Immunisation (Fourth Monday in each month). |
| | | p.m. | Vaccination (Fourth Monday in each month). |

Singleton—Church Hall.

| | | | |
|--------|-----|------|--|
| Monday | ... | p.m. | C.W.C. (First and third Monday in each month). |
|--------|-----|------|--|

Salwick—Social Centre, Ministry of Supply.

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|------|---|
| Wednesday | ... | p.m. | C.W.C. (First and third Wednesday in each month). |
| | | p.m. | Immunisation (Third Wednesday in each month). |
| | | p.m. | Vaccination (Third Wednesday in each month). |

Staining.

| | | | |
|--------|-----|------|--|
| Monday | ... | p.m. | C.W.C. (2nd and 4th Monday in each month). (M.O. 4th Monday only). |
|--------|-----|------|--|

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

A total of 90 samples was obtained in the Fylde Rural District during 1958, consisting of 63 samples of milk (two of which were of Channel Islands milk) and 27 others, comprising :—

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 Butter | 1 Double cream |
| 1 Semolina | 1 Travel sickness tablets |
| 2 Cocoa | 2 Whisky |
| 1 Flour | 1 Barley |
| 1 Fruit curd | 1 Rice |
| 1 Corned beef | 2 Lard |
| 1 Syrup | 2 Pickles |
| 1 Ground rice | 1 Mincemeat |
| 2 Soft Drinks | 1 Ice-cream |
| 1 Coffee and Chicory essence | |

The samples were submitted for analysis to the County Analyst, and, with the exception of those detailed below, were reported by him to be genuine :—

| Type | Result of Analysis | Action Taken |
|----------|---|--|
| Milk (F) | Fat 2.60%, deficient 13.3% fat. Slightly low in solids-not-fat. | Vendor notified |
| Milk (I) | Fat 2.55%, deficient 15% fat. | Formal samples obtained (proved "Genuine") |
| Milk (F) | Fat 2.38%, deficient 20.6% fat. | "Appeal-to-Cow" samples obtained |

Five "Appeal-to-Cow" samples were obtained and, whilst all were of "genuine" milk, three were poor in fat content. The farmer was interviewed.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1958)

| Years | Numbers originally notified Total (all ages) | Scarlet Fever | | Whooping Cough | | Acute Poliomyelitis | | Measles ex. Rubella | | Dysentery | |
|--|---|---------------|----|----------------|----|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|----|-----------|----|
| | | M. | F. | M. | F. | Paralytic | Non-paral'tic | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Final numbers after correction under 1 year .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 | .. | 1 |
| 1— | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 2— | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 3 | 6 | .. | 3 |
| 3— | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| 4— | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 7 | 5 | .. | .. |
| 5—9 | .. | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | .. | .. | 29 | 38 | 5 | 1 |
| 10—14 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 1 | .. | 2 |
| 15—24 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. |
| 25 and over | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Age unknown .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. |
| Total (all ages) .. | 3 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | 64 | 71 | 11 | 14 |

| | Ac. | | Food Poisoning | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----|-------------------|----|
| | Pneumonia M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 5 years | ... | ... | — | — |
| 5—14 years | ... | ... | — | — |
| 15—44 years | ... | ... | I | — |
| 45—64 years | ... | ... | — | I |
| 65 and over | ... | ... | — | — |
| Age unknown... | ... | ... | — | — |
| | | | — | — |
| Total all ages | ... | ... | I | I |
| | | | — | — |
| | | | 26 | 8 |

Other notifiable diseases—

Infective Acute encephalitis ... I Male

TUBERCULOSIS.

A Tuberculosis service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council, and the District Council. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after-care, and the Sanitary Authority for prevention.

A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council, and Hospital and Chest Clinic facilities by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

The incidence of Tuberculosis has been very low—only four cases notified, two pulmonary and two non-pulmonary. No deaths occurred during the year.

It is gratifying to note the declining toll of this grave disease.

| Numbers originally notified | Respiratory | Tuberculosis | | Meninges & | | Other | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|----|------------|----|-------|----|
| | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 5 years | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5—14 years | ... | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 15—24 years | ... | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 25—44 years | ... | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 45—64 years | ... | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| 65 and over | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Age unknown | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total (all ages) | ... | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | 1 |

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

No deaths from Pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, but one death of a woman occurred from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Yours faithfully,

C. ROBERTSON WILSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Fylde Rural District Council

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
WESHAM.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Fylde Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure to submit to you my thirteenth Annual Report upon the work of the Public Health Inspectors Department ; the report being for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

There was one change of staff in the middle of the year when Miss Hudson left the local government service, and her place in the department was taken by the transfer of Miss Wilkinson from the general office. Mr. Berry continued in his position as Additional Public Health Inspector, and I take this opportunity of thanking him again for his most able and willing support. The Council is fortunate in the happy relationship of its various departments and the Health Department is conscious of, and grateful for, the willing co-operation of all members of the Council's staff.

The Housing Slum Clearance programme was not proceeded with during the year. The requirements for further land and other capital schemes resulted in only 12 houses being erected by the Council. However, preparation of clearance areas continued and it is confidently hoped that the leeway will be made up during 1959.

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, and Regulations in connection with slaughtering and slaughterhouses came into operation and have already been reported upon to the Council

Comments upon the various aspects of work done are contained in the appropriate sections of the report.

Details for the year 1958 are set out below, and the following is a summary of the visits made :—

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Inspections (details below) | ... | ... | 1,440 |
| Re-visits | ... | ... | 296 |
| Informal notices served | ... | ... | 70 |
| Statutory notices served | ... | ... | 4 |
| Nuisances discovered | ... | ... | 72 |
| Nuisances abated... | ... | ... | 76 |

Inspections and re-visits in connection with :—

Public Health Act.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Dwelling-houses on complaint | ... | ... | 76 |
| Drains and Sewers | ... | ... | 115 |
| Ditches and Watercourses | ... | ... | 62 |
| Dustbins | ... | ... | 468 |
| Infectious Diseases | ... | ... | 82 |
| Inns, Restaurants, etc. | ... | ... | 19 |
| Keeping of animals | ... | ... | 16 |
| Offensive accumulations | ... | ... | 33 |
| Smoke (observations, etc.) | ... | ... | 10 |
| Insect Pests | ... | ... | 48 |
| Moveable dwellings | ... | ... | 133 |

Housing Acts.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Individual Unfit Houses | ... | ... | 66 |
| Improvement Grants | ... | ... | 12 |
| Certificates of Disrepair | ... | ... | 5 |

Factories Acts.

| | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Others | ... | ... | ... | 64 |

Food and Drugs Acts.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Food Premises | ... | ... | ... | 155 |
| Stalls and vehicles | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Food Inspection | ... | ... | ... | 115 |
| Sampling | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| Milk and Dairies | ... | ... | ... | 9 |

Miscellaneous.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Schools | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Shops Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 312 |
| Pests Act, 1949 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 271 |
| Refuse Collection and Disposal | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 163 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 103 |

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Three slaughterhouses are licensed in the district, but only one is in use. All the animals slaughtered for human consumption were inspected and details of meat and other food-stuffs condemned are set out overleaf. The number of slaughtermen licensed at the end of the year was 17. The number of visits made in connection with food inspection was 115.

Meat Inspection: Carcasses inspected and condemnations

| | Cattle excluding cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|--|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| Number killed (if known) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 481 | 9 |
| Number inspected | .. | .. | .. | .. | 481 | 9 |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci— | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4.1% | .. |
| Tuberculosis only— | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11.1% | .. |
| Cysticercosis— | | | | | | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Generalised and totally condemned | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

Food Stocks condemned :

| | | | <i>cwts.</i> | <i>lbs.</i> | <i>ozs.</i> |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Canned Corned Beef | ... | ... | — | 6 | 0 |
| Potatoes ... | ... | ... | 6 | 56 | 0 |
| Canned Ham | ... | ... | — | 37 | 6 |
| Sheep Livers | ... | ... | — | 32 | 0 |
| Pig lungs, stomachs, etc. | ... | ... | — | 27 | 0 |
| Bovine Heads | ... | ... | — | 65 | 0 |
| Bovine lungs | ... | ... | — | 36 | 0 |
| Bovine Livers | ... | ... | — | 48 | 0 |
| Bovine carcase, offal | ... | ... | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| <hr/> | | | <hr/> | | |
| Total weight | ... | ... | 17 | 83 | 6 |

There are eight bakehouses operating in the district. Routine inspections were made and no formal action was found necessary. 155 visits were made to food premises of all kinds. Minor contraventions of the legislation were dealt with by informal notice and no statutory action was required. 37 premises are registered and being used for the sale of ice cream. Of these 30 sell wrapped ice cream; five sell loose ice cream; and two sell wrapped and loose ice cream. Four premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream, all of which use the hot mix method of production. One of the registered premises ceased manufacture during the year. 32 samples of ice cream were submitted for examination and three proved unsatisfactory to the tests carried out. These unsatisfactory samples were the product of one manufacturer and arose at long and irregular intervals. Subsequent inspection and advice was followed by further samples being taken and satisfactory results were obtained.

Six premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of sausage, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food. Regular inspections of these premises were made and all were found to be satisfactorily conducted and maintained.

The number of food premises by type of business, in the district at the end of the year was as follows :—

| <i>Type of Business</i> | <i>No.</i> |
|--|------------|
| General grocers and provision dealers ... | 35 |
| Greengrocers and fruiterers | 17 |
| Fishmongers | 2 |
| Meat shops | 8 |
| Bakers and/or confectioners | 8 |
| Fried fish shops | 6 |
| Sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream | 18 |
| Licensed premises, clubs, restaurants, Cafes | 48 |
| Miscellaneous | 48 |

Three samples of raw milk and 14 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for examination and all proved satisfactory to the tests carried out. 11 distributors are registered as operating from dairies, five from shops other than dairies, and nine distributors have premises outside the district.

The number of dealers' licences issued by the local authority during 1958 was :—

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| “Tuberculin Tested” milk | ... | ... | 20 |
| Pasteurised milk | ... | ... | 27 |
| Sterilised milk | ... | ... | 21 |

FACTORIES

There were 57 factories on the register at 31st December, 1958. 92 inspections were made. Five notices were served ; no legal proceedings were taken. With the exception of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority plant at Salwick, English Electric, Warton ; Parkinson's Biscuits Works, Wesham ; and Balderstone Mill, Freckleton ; most of the factories are of the small owner-occupied type.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The number and various types of sanitary accommodation are set out in the table below.

| | | 1957 | 1958 |
|----------------------------|-----|------|-------------|
| No. of middens | ... | ... | 78 77 |
| No. of pail closets | ... | ... | 406 400 |
| No. of fresh water closets | | ... | 3,404 3,455 |
| No. of dry ashpits | ... | ... | 98 — |
| No. of moveable ashbins | | ... | 3,701 3,743 |

The number of houses on a water carriage system is estimated to be 3,396. A further reduction in the number of pail closets and middens is anticipated when proposed sewerage schemes at Staining, Elswick and Newton are completed.

The Council continued to make a grant of £8 towards the voluntary conversions to a water carriage system

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

The Council undertakes the collection of house refuse in all parishes in the district. Contracts for additional collections at R.A.F. Sites at Warton and Freckleton ceased progressively as the camps closed down. The contract at Weeton R.A.F. Station was secured by a private contractor. Following these reductions in collections the next two succeeding vacancies on the staff were not filled.

The summer months bring no respite to the collection teams for as the household fires are extinguished the caravan sites open up and, indeed, additional collections at appropriate rates are made from some of the larger sites. Summer refuse is more of bulk than of weight and satisfactory disposal more difficult to control. Further steps were made towards the acquisition of the Whinbrick site as a permanent site for refuse disposal, and in view of the urgent need for suitable tipping space it is hoped that the site can be satisfactorily acquired and brought into use during 1959.

In view of the discussions taking place with regard to new office accommodation and new depot, it was resolved that the proposed alterations and adaptations to the existing yard be left in abeyance; only temporary repairs as necessary being carried out.

The present establishment consists of one 12 cu. yd. Diesel Ford ; two 10-12 cu. yd. Karrier Petrol ; and one 7 cu. yd. Karrier Petrol. One 7 cu. yd. Karrier Petrol wagon is held in reserve for special collections, breakdowns and other emergencies. 18 men including four drivers are employed upon refuse collection ; one man is engaged for baling salvage and relief refuse collector ; and the tips are controlled by an attendant working with a Ferguson tractor. Day to day supervision is exercised by a foreman under the general control of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Waste paper continued to be sold to Thames Board Mills. Salvage disposed of and its cash value was as follows :—

95 tons 13 cwts. 1 qrs. ... £797 13s. 7d.

The amount of salvage collected shewed a slight decrease due mainly to the closing of R.A.F. Stations. It is hoped to more than pull up this decrease next year with the bringing into service of an additional salvage trailer.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Another year has passed and still local authorities are muddling through with inadequate and impracticable legislation. No change in the law has taken place and the Council's officers are still faced with the same administrative and practical problems referred to in last year's report. No serious difficulty was presented by authorised and licensed sites. In fact the reverse was the case, and site owners have co-operated fully with the officers of the department whose visits are welcomed and whose advice is often sought.

There was the usual spate of unauthorised sites in the summer months, but there seems to be little or no legal means of control over these temporary developments. The safeguarding of public health was in the worst case hampered by the knowledge that planning permission would not be granted for the provision of necessary sanitary facilities. Such development must be taking place on a country wide scale and one wonders how great the problem must become before new and workable legislation is brought into being.

There are 28 licensed sites in the area for a total of 1,507 moveable dwellings. In addition licences have been granted in respect of 14 individual caravans. It is estimated that the summer population of caravans is in the region of

3,500 persons. 143 visits were made to caravan sites. No formal action was taken during the year. Proceedings against non-compliance with licence conditions were adjourned *sine die* when the necessary works were put in hand.

WATER SUPPLY

The number of houses on a mains supply of water is 4,012. The number of new connections during 1958 was 54. The water undertakers are the Fylde Water Board with offices in Blackpool. No complaints were received with regard to the quality of the water, but the loss of pressure in Staining still obtains in the height of the summer season when all the caravan sites in the area are fully occupied. There were no extensions to water mains. 22 houses in isolated positions far from the nearest water mains are without a mains supply of water, and rely upon private wells.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Only a few of the parishes have a main sewer system and sewage disposal works. The sewers at Clifton discharge into inadequate and obsolete tanks. No filtration is carried out and the tank effluent empties into a brook which becomes grossly polluted. For this village a new sewage disposal system has been designed and prepared for construction in 1959. At Warton the sewers discharge to the works constructed during the war by the American Forces. Since that time the development of Warton has almost doubled. No filtration is carried out and tank effluent empties into a tidal brook running to the River Ribble. Lagoons are provided for the drying of sludge from the tanks.

The Wesham sewers connect with those of the Kirkham Urban District Council and make their way to the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewage Works in Lower Lane, Freckleton, where a full-time attendant is employed. No filtration is carried out and the tank effluents are discharged via a brook to the River Ribble.

The sewage from the parish of Freckleton is taken off by a system of sewers which discharge directly without treatment into Freckleton Pool—an inlet from the River Ribble. Complaints from residents in the area are received each year and the Council now have under consideration the provision of a proper sewage disposal works for this parish.

At Wrea Green a new disposal works was completed during the year and is now in use. This parish has no serious problem as far as the sewers extend, but a problem does exist arising from the pollution of ditches in the parish by sewage effluents from premises not connected to the sewers.

The northerly end of Staining is provided with sewers which are connected to the sewage system of the Poulton Urban District Council. The central and southern portions of the village with the exception of the Council housing estate have no sewers, and a serious pollution problem exists at this end of the parish. The council have prepared a scheme for the sewerage of this area and it is hoped that work may commence during 1959.

The westerly end of Newton village including the Councils housing estate is provided with sewers which connect to the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewage Works at Freckleton. The position as far as the remainder of the village and the pollution of ditches is concerned is well known to the Council and a sewage scheme for this part of Newton is in the preliminary stages of preparation.

The Council housing estate and a few private properties in the village of Weeton are connected by sewers to septic tanks and filters constructed by the Council with the approval of the Ministry of Health and the Lancashire Rivers Board. No provision is made for the sewerage of the remainder of the village.

No sewers or sewage disposal works are provided for the villages of Elswick or Singleton and sewage finds its way by one means or another to the ditches and watercourses in the areas. These villages have a combined population of over 1,100 people and the provision of satisfactory sewage disposal in the two parishes is something which the Council will need to consider in the near future.

SCHOOLS

There are 14 schools in the area of the Council and the sanitary condition of schools at the end of the year was as follows :—

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Number with unsatisfactory yard surfaces | ... | 2 |
| Number with fresh water closets | ... | 12 |
| Number with waste water or trough closets | ... | — |
| Number with pail closets | ... | 2 |

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|
| Number with drainage to public sewers | ... | ... | 6 |
| Number with drainage to private treatmet works | | | 6 |
| Number with dustbins | ... | ... | 14 |
| Number with mains supply of water | ... | ... | 14 |
| Number with unsatisfactory washing facilities | ... | | 7 |

In addition to the above information, many of the schools where school meals are served are ill equipped for the purpose. The attention of the Education Authority was drawn to any unsatisfactory features found in schools and the department has received a proposed programme of improvements to be carried out progressively as funds and time allow.

RODENT CONTROL

The duties of part-time Rodent Operator are undertaken by the foreman of the Health Department. No large infestations of rats or mice were reported or found during the year. The majority of agricultural properties have contracts with the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee whose staff are trained for this special class of work and who provide a most efficient service. Unfortunately this service is being run down and no further contracts will be taken out by the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee after the 31st March, 1959. However, this is not likely to create any difficulties in the Fylde area as the former operators of the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee have formed a private company which is carrying on so far as possible the whole of the work on agricultural properties. It cannot be foreseen that any special machinery need be set up by this Council. The Council's sewers were test baited with negative results and no further treatment was necessary. Other premises treated consisted of five dwelling houses and seven other types of properties. The service to dwellinghouses was given free of charge, but this practice will need to be reviewed on the cessation on 31st March, 1959, of the grant made by the Ministry to the Council for rodent control work. Treatments carried out at business premises were charged for on a time and materials basis.

It is estimated that there are 4,858 properties in the district, being comprised of four local authority properties, 4,056 dwellinghouses, 541 business premises and 257 agricultural premises. Six inspections were made of local authority properties, 121 of dwellinghouses, 157 of business premises, and 22 of agricultural holdings. No statutory action was necessary during the year.

HOUSING

Statistics

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of houses erected during the year | ... | ... | 56 |
| (i) By the Local Authority | ... | ... | 12 |
| (ii) By other bodies or persons | ... | ... | 42 |
| 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :— | | | |
| (1) (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... | ... | 78 |
| (b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose | ... | ... | 153 |
| (2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :— | | | |
| (a) No. found during year | ... | ... | 1 |
| (b) No. (or estimated No.) at end of year | ... | ... | 173 |
| (3) No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit | ... | ... | 18 |
| 2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957) :— | | | |
| (1) No. of dwelling-houses demolished during year :— | | | |
| (a) Unfit houses | ... | ... | ... |
| (b) Other houses | ... | ... | ... |
| (2) No. of persons displaced | ... | ... | 19 |

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas :—

| | | | | | No. of Persons Displaced |
|-------|---|------------------|--|-----|--------------------------------|
| | | No. of Houses | | | |
| (1) | Houses demolished or closed during year :— | | | | |
| (a) | Housing Act, 1957— | | | | |
| (i) | Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 17) ... | 4 | | 2 | |
| (ii) | Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 16 and still in force ... | 5 | | 8 | |
| (iii) | Under Section 17 ... | 1 | | 3 | |
| (2) | Repairs during the year :— | | | | No. of Houses |
| (a) | Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts | | | | 16 |
| (b) | Public Health Acts.—Action after service of formal notice.—Houses in which defects were remedied— | | | | |
| (i) | By owners | | | 2 | |
| (ii) | By local authority in default of owners | | | | Nil |
| (c) | Housing Act, 1957—Action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10 and 16). Houses made fit— | | | | |
| (i) | By owners | | | Nil | |
| (ii) | By local authority in default of owners | | | | Nil |
| (d) | Housing Act, 1957—Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked | | | | Nil |

4. Housing Act, 1949—Improvement grants, etc. :—

| Action during year : | Private Bodies or Individuals | | Local Authority | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| | No. of schemes | No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected | No. of schemes | No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected |
| (a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority | 14 | 14 | ... | ... |
| (b) Approved by local authority | 13 | 13 | ... | ... |
| (c) Finally approved by Ministry | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (d) Work completed | 11 | 11 | ... | ... |
| (e) Additional separate dwellings included in (d) above | ... | Nil | ... | ... |
| (f) Any other action taken under that Act | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

Yours faithfully,

H. GRAHAM, M.A.P.H.I., CERT.R.S.I.,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

